Dear Neighborhood Leaders,

Know Your Source, Know Your Rules:

Please take the time to review the necessary information for your residence, so that you don't incur water fines. Please note: Hillsborough County will be issuing watering fines, there will be no warnings issued. Also keep in mind that the neighbors around you may have a different source of water than you do.

Tighter Water Restrictions Go Into Effect Today

Starting today (Friday, April 3), Hillsborough County will begin complying with tighter water restrictions enacted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Puzzled about the new rules? The key is to know your water source.

At least through June 30, residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County - those who live outside of the city limits of Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace - have different rules, depending on whether they get their water from the county, the City of Tampa, or a private well.

For detailed information and links to fact sheets and Web sites for SWFWMD and the City of Tampa, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/ (http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water).

Reclaimed water users are exempt from the lawn watering restrictions. However, these customers are reminded to use only what they need.

Here are the highlights:

Hillsborough County Water Resource Services customers - Tighter restrictions on lawn watering, hand watering and drip irrigation. Decorative fountains are prohibited. Car washing is prohibited unless done at a commercial car wash. Charity car washes are prohibited. Pressure washing by a commercial company is allowed for health and safety reasons or in preparation for painting.

Residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County who get their water from private wells, or who use wells or another alternative (such as a pond) to irrigate their lawns- Longer periods of time are allowed for watering. Car washing is allowed. Pressure washing is allowed for health and safety reasons and in preparation for painting. Decorative fountains are allowed four hours a day.

Residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County who receive their water from the City of Tampa - Follow City of Tampa restrictions, which prohibit watering with sprinklers.

Residents who still have questions after reading the online information may contact the Water Conservation Team by writing info@hillsboroughcounty.org, or call 813-274-6800 during regular business hours.

Find Phase III summary online at

http://www.tampagov.net/dept Water/information resources/restrictions/Phase III Restrictions.asp for well and other non-city water users inside Tampa.

The updated summary sheet and info on restrictions at http://www.tampagov.net/dept Water/information resources/restrictions/index.

Sincerely, Wanda

THINK AT THE SINK!

During this ongoing drought, every drop of water counts.

Learn how you can cut water use at

http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water/conserve

FROM THE PRES Julie Milas